



**La Paz, Bolivia**

**JULY 2010**

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### **Contact Us**

[bolivia.usembassy.gov](http://bolivia.usembassy.gov)

[consularlapaz@state.gov](mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov)

[USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com)

### **Hours of Operation**

#### **LA PAZ**

**Mondays through Thursdays**

**08:15 to 12:00**

**Thursdays**

**14:00 to 13:45**

*(except U.S. and local holidays)*

#### **COCHABAMBA**

**Temporarily Closed**

#### **SANTA CRUZ**

**Mondays - Fridays**

**9:00 to 12:00**

**Mondays and Wednesdays**

**14:00 to 16:15**

*(except U.S. and local holidays)*

# **American Citizens Services Newsletter**

## **Consular Agency in Cochabamba Temporarily Closed**

Due to the absence of consular personnel, the consular agency in Cochabamba is temporarily closed. Though we do not know the exact date the agency will re-open, we anticipate that it will be within the next three months.

If you need to apply for passports or consular reports of birth abroad, or need notarial services, you may seek these services at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz or at the U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz.

Anyone requiring services from the American Citizens Services Unit in La Paz or at the U.S. Consular Agency in Santa Cruz will be required to make an appointment in advance. You must make an appointment on the Embassy's website at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html>.

## **New Consular Agent at Consular Agency in Santa Cruz**

The Consular Agency in Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that Consular Agent Nicole Martinez was recently brought on board and is available to assist the U.S. citizen community. Nicole is a longtime resident of Santa Cruz and is a tremendous asset to our Embassy and American citizen community. Welcome Nicole!

## **Appointments Required For Consular Services in Santa Cruz**

The consular agency in Santa Cruz has introduced an appointment system for all non-emergency services, including passport renewals (and passport extra pages), birth registrations, notarial services, Federal benefits, and general inquiries. Only customers with appointments will be admitted into the consular agency for all non-emergency matters.

To make an appointment, please visit the Embassy website at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/service.html> or click [here](#).

## **After Hours Emergency Number**

The telephone number for U.S. citizens in need of assistance after regular working hours is (591) 715-33713. When requesting assistance through this emergency number, please bear in mind that passport or visa issues not considered emergencies.

## New American Citizens Services Fees

On June 28, 2010, the U.S. Department of State published its Schedule of Fees for Consular Services in the Federal Register. Most notably, the fees for passports, Consular Report of Birth Abroads, and notarials will increase on July 13, 2010. The revised fees will cover actual operating expenses for the 301 overseas consular posts, 23 domestic passport agencies and other centers that provide these consular services to U.S. and foreign citizens.

The 27 adjusted fees are based on a Cost of Service Study completed by the Bureau of Consular Affairs in June 2009. The study, which was the most detailed and exhaustive ever conducted by the U.S. Department of State, established the true cost of providing these consular services, which the Department recovers through the collection of fees.

The following is a list of the most frequently requested services and the related adjusted fees:

NEW CONSULAR FEES EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 2010		
Passport Fees	Previous Fee	New Fee
Passport Book - adult	\$ 100.00	\$ 135.00
Passport Book - minor	\$ 85.00	\$ 105.00
Passport Book Renewal - Adult	\$ 75.00	\$ 110.00
Additional passport visa pages	-	\$ 82.00
Consular Report of Birth Abroad	\$ 65.00	\$ 100.00
Renunciation of U.S. Citizenship	-	\$ 450.00
Overseas Citizens Services		
Disposition/Shipment of Remains of a non-U.S. Citizen	\$265.00 + expenses	\$200.00 + expenses
Documentary Services		
Notarials, Certifications of True Copies, Authentications, provision of Department of State records	\$ 30.00 (first),	\$50.00
	\$20.00 (addtl)	

## Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

Please note that the Embassy will be closed on the following official holidays during the months of June-October 2010.

Independence Day**	Friday, August 6, 2010
Labor Day *	Monday, September 6
Cochabamba Day ( <i>Only in Cochabamba</i> )	Tuesday, September 14
Santa Cruz Day ( <i>Only in Santa Cruz</i> )	Friday, September 24
Columbus Day*	Monday, October 11

\* U.S. Holiday      \*\*Bolivian Holiday      \*\*\*U.S. & Bolivian Holidays

(a) When a Bolivian holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, the host government may designate Friday or Monday as a day off at its discretion.

## Ensure Your Vote Counts !

### State Primaries Around the Corner

Did you know that in 2010, every seat in the House of Representatives and 36 Senate seats will be contested? Mid-term congressional elections are federal elections, open to overseas voters. This means your vote in 2010 for U.S. Congress is as crucial as was your vote in 2008.

Register and request your ballot now! Ballot applications and instructions for the above states are available at [www.fvap.gov/FPCA](http://www.fvap.gov/FPCA). Click on your state on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot.

2010 Primary Elections by Month		
June	August	August
Alabama - Jun 1	Kansas - Aug 3	Guam - Sep 4
Mississippi - Jun 1	Michigan - Aug 3	Virgin Islands - Sep 11
New Mexico - Jun 1	Missouri - Aug 3	Delaware - Sep 14
California - Jun 8	Tennessee - Aug 5	District of Columbia - Sep 14
Iowa - Jun 8	Colorado - Aug 10	Maryland - Sep 14
Maine - Jun 8	Connecticut - Aug 10	Massachusetts - Sep 14
Montana - Jun 8	Minnesota - Aug 10	New Hampshire - Sep 14
Nevada - Jun 8	Washington - Aug 17	New York - Sep 14
New Jersey - Jun 8	Wyoming - Aug 17	Rhode Island - Sep 14
North Dakota - Jun 8	Alaska - Aug 24	Wisconsin - Sep 14
South Carolina - Jun 8	Arizona - Aug 24	Hawaii - Sep 18
South Dakota - Jun 8	Florida - Aug 24	<b>October</b>
Virginia - Jun 8	Vermont - Aug 24	Louisiana - Oct 2 (State Primary, & 2nd Party Congressional Run-off if necessary)
Utah - Jun 22	Louisiana - Aug 28	
<b>July</b>	(1st Party Congressional)	<b>November-December</b>
Georgia - Jul 20		No Primaries Scheduled
Oklahoma - Jul 27		

## Travel and Safety Conditions in Bolivia

### Country Specific Information

Did you know that the Consular Section maintains a regularly updated Country Specific Information (CSI) sheet that contains detailed information about travel and safety conditions in Bolivia? The CSI is an excellent source of information that you can use for yourself and provide to other U.S. citizens who are living or traveling in Bolivia. You can find the CSI on the [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) website or by clicking [here](#).

## Safety and Security Spotlight

Spontaneous protests and roadblocks continue to affect travel in and around Bolivia. The Embassy urges you to use caution when traveling around the country and to contact the Consular Section for up-to-date information and warnings. Please consider the following precautions that will help keep you safe:

- A few days prior to your road trip, contact the Consular Section in La Paz for any updates on roadblocks or protests in the area you plan to visit.
- Monitor local news and radio for updates (both before and during your trip).
- If you suspect a roadblock ahead, stop and turn around immediately, and contact the Consular Section to notify us of the situation.
- If stopped at a roadblock, be courteous with them and cooperate. If the people forming the roadblock demand a 'toll', it is most likely to be a small amount. Have small change readily available (without flashing large amounts of paper money). They will NOT have change for your 100Bs notes. Your safety and wellbeing are more important than your pride and the small insignificant "toll" they are extorting.
- If you find yourself in a roadblock, you should not attempt to run through it, as this may aggravate the situation and lead to physical harm. Instead, you should consider taking alternative, safe routes, or returning to where the travel started.
- Given that roadblocks may occur without warning and have stranded travelers for several days, you should take extra food, water, and warm clothing. The U.S. Embassy also advises its employees to maintain at least two weeks' supply of drinking water and canned food in case roadblocks affect availability of supplies.



The American Citizens Services' (ACS) quarterly newsletter offers information to American citizens residing in Bolivia pertaining to consular procedures, policies, and other topics of general interest.

If you believe others would benefit from receiving this newsletter, please forward it to them and ask them to contact the American Citizens Services Unit to be added to the distribution list.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, or would like to be removed from our email list, please email us at [consularlapaz@state.gov](mailto:consularlapaz@state.gov) or [USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com](mailto:USCit.Services.Bolivia@gmail.com). Our email address is reserved exclusively for U.S. citizen services.